



Department of State

TELEGRAM

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ACTION RP-10

INFO OCT-01 NEA-06 IO-14 ADS-00 SR-04 HA-05 AID-07
CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 TRSE-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02
SS-15 /084 W

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R 131130Z APR 80
FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7852
INFO USMISSION GENEVA

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR	
REVIEWED BY	<i>[Signature]</i> DATE <i>2/12/81</i>
ISSUED FOR POSTING, ETC. TO A/CDC BY <i>[Signature]</i> DATE <i>[Signature]</i> IN THE NAME OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE	

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E.O. 12065: N/A
TAGS: SREF, PK
SUBJECT: COORDINATION OF AFGHAN REFUGEE RELIEF EFFORT

REFS: (A) ISLAMABAD 2455 (B) ISLAMABAD 1522

1. WE THOUGHT IT MIGHT BE USEFUL TO THE DEPARTMENT TO SUMMARIZE THE PRESENT STATE OF COORDINATION OF THE AFGHAN REFUGEE EFFORT. OF THE THREE MAIN ACTORS IN THE EFFORT, UNHCR, GOP, AND VOLAGS, THE UNHCR HAS PLAYED THE MAJOR COORDINATING ROLE. THE GOP'S NATIONAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR AFGHAN REFUGEES, CONSTITUTED IN FEBRUARY AND COMPOSED OF ALL INTERESTED GOP MINISTRIES, UN AGENCIES, AND A VOLAG REPRESENTATIVE, HAS NOT MET SINCE ITS FORMATIVE SESSION IN FEBRUARY. SIMILAR COMMITTEES AT THE PROVINCIAL LEVEL HAVE YET TO HAVE THEIR FIRST MEETING. A LOOSELY ORGANIZED BODY CALLED THE ASSOCIATION OF AFGHAN REFUGEE AT ORGANIZATIONS (AARAO) PERFORMS THE COORDINATION FUNCTIONS FOR THE VOLAGS BY PROVIDING A FORUM FOR INFORMATION EXCHANGE AND JOINT PLANNING.

2. AS HE DID IN BALUCHISTAN (REF A), UNHCR REP

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OMAN KHAUT DOES MOST OF THE COORDINATING BY TRAVELING

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TO THE PROVINCES, MEETING WITH KEY INDIVIDUALS AND SETTLING ON A PLAN FOR ACTION. HE THEN RETURNS TO ISLAMABAD AND NEGOTIATES THE AGREEMENT OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT. FINALLY HE OBTAINS APPROVAL FROM GENEVA, IF NECESSARY, AND ANNOUNCES TO ALL INTERESTED PARTIES WHAT THE PLAN OF ACTION WILL BE. THE GOP SEEMS TO BE SATISFIED WITH THIS ARRANGEMENT AS IT IS MUCH MORE EFFICIENT THAN LARGE MEETINGS IN ISLAMABAD (REF B).

3. KOHAUT'S STAFFING IS IMPROVING BUT STILL NOT UP TO STRENGTH, UNHCR HAS ONE PERSON IN PESHAWAR AND ONE IN QUETTA WITH AT LEAST ONE MORE FOR EACH POST YET TO BE HIRED AND A POSSIBLE THIRD POST IN TANK IN THE NWFP. THE ISLAMABAD STAFF IS INVOLVED IN TRAVELING, SETTING UP THEIR OFFICES AND KEEPING UP WITH UN PAPER WORK. THE RESULT IS THAT KOHAUT SOMETIMES HAS IMPRECISE DATA AND FOCUS ON A SINGLE PROBLEM FOR ANY LENGTH OF TIME.

4. THE MOST PRESSING STAFFING NEED AT UNHCR IS A DEPUTY FOR KOHAUT. HOWEVER, THE RECENT ARRIVAL OF KAREN BAGGER, AN EXTREMELY ENERGETIC AND CAPABLE AMERICAN, SHOULD HELP TO BRING SOME ORDER OUT OF CHAOS. BAGGER WILL BE UNHCR'S LIAISON WITH THE VOLAGS, HOPEFULLY SIGNIFICANTLY REDUCING THE TIME PRESSURE ON KOHAUT, AND COMPILING A USEFUL LIST OF WHO'S DOING WHAT WHERE.

5. THE VOLAGS COORDINATING GROUP, AARAO, IS CHAIRED BY CWS REP LOEL CALLAHAN AND IS MADE UP OF MANY SMALL VOLAGS, E.G., WORLD CONCERN, SALVATION ARMY, TERRE DES HOMMES, ETC., AS WELL AS THE LARGER ONES, CARE, LICROSS, AND ICRC. KOHAUT, AND NOW PRESUMABLY BAGGER, ATTENDS

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THE BIWEEKLY MEETING OF AARAO AS WELL AS A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE EMBASSY. THE MEETINGS ARE EFFECTIVE IN TERMS OF MOBILIZATION OF THE VOLAGS AND KEEPING ALL PARTIES INFORMED OF EACH OTHERS ACTIVITIES.

6. THE CHAIRPERSON OF AARAO, LOEL CALLAHAN, IS RECOGNIZED BY UNHCR AND THE GOP MINISTRY OF STATES AND FRONTIER REGIONS AS THE SPOKESMAN FOR THE VOLAGS AND IS A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE

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FOR AFGHAN REFUGEES.
HUMMEL

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